

19 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant, Ops

THROUGH : AC/FCS

SUBJECT : Coverage of ADN and MTI

1. The question has been asked "why doesn't Vienna Bureau receive ADN for relay to BBC via VCVC Caversham/Vienna circuit?" Our records indicate that FBIS did not want Vienna Bureau to enter into direct negotiations with East Berlin for the ADN file. The prevailing mood at that time was the desire to keep a low profile with regard to Vienna Bureau.

2. Various options were proposed or attempted in order to gain access to the ADN file. However, for one reason or another, they did not work out. For example, one option would have been to have [] receive the file and forward it to BBC. This was not done because we were not assured by [] of weekend coverage. Also, indications were that the GDR did not want to have anything to do with []. Another option would have been for DDP to refile ADN material to BBC. This option was not carried through (after a brief sampling period) because we were not getting the full file desired from DDP. Besides, it was a shoe-string, torn-tape relay operation which caused delays compounded by poor selection.

3. Finally, after much correspondence between FBIS (headquarters), London Bureau, and Vienna Bureau BBC coverage of ADN was instituted on 3 June 1976. The file is transmitted via landline to Caversham from East Germany. BBC receives the full German file, for which they pay approximately \$20,000/year. We reimburse the BBC half this cost--approximately \$10,000/year.

4. The problems involved in Vienna Bureau receiving MTI would seem to me to be similar to the one which occurred when they attempted to take on ADN. That is, would we be willing to let them enter into negotiations with MTI directly? Would they have the capability to relay the file via the VCVC circuit? All things considered I think we can learn from our experience of the past two years and go directly to the BBC. Have them contact MTI and obtain full right to whatever file from MTI they wish (including dissemination rights) and then we will reimburse them half the cost.

[]
Field Coverage Staff

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